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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 29 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Today, on the very same day that the Security Council convenes for its biannual consultations on resolution 1701 (2006), terrorists in our region offered a clear reminder about the ongoing challenges in implementing this resolution on the ground. I write to draw your attention to a disturbing terrorist attack emanating from Lebanon, which poses a serious threat to regional stability and security.

Early this morning, around midnight local time, some four rockets were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, exploding in the heart of Western Galilee, a densely populated area. The rockets landed in the middle of towns as men, women and children were fast asleep in their beds. They caused damage to numerous civilian buildings and ruptured a gas line, causing a fire to break out.

Using violence and provocation, extremists continue to try and take advantage of regional instability to advance their agendas. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces fully responsible for this attack, and expects them to take all necessary measures to prevent further acts of terrorism.

Today's attack highlights the serious danger posed by the presence of vast quantities of illegal arms in Lebanon, including south of the Litani River. The Hezbollah terrorist organization now possesses tens of thousands of missiles and rockets, in clear contravention of resolution 1701 (2006). Its arsenal continues to grow larger and more sophisticated. This is a direct result of joint and coordinated transfers of arms from Iran and Syria, which continue to flow unimpeded across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

While the United Nations and others in the international community are aware of the scope and magnitude of these arms transfers, enforcement of the existing arms embargo is insufficient.

Israel calls on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to immediately conduct a comprehensive investigation into today's attack. The Security Council and the international community have a duty to condemn this attack clearly and unequivocally, sending a clear message to the Government of Lebanon and all other parties in the region. All responsible members of the international community must act with a common purpose to fully enforce Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

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In response to this attack, Israel has exercised its right to self-defense and will continue to take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative